

REMARKS

This application is the U.S. national phase, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §371, of international application No. PCT/GB2003/005200, published in English on March 24, 2005 as international publication No. WO 2005/025702 A1, which claims the benefit of British application Ser. No. GB 0321585.2, filed September 15, 2003, the disclosure of which applications are incorporated herein in their entireties by this reference. Page 1 of the specification has been amended to reflect this information.

Reconsideration of the above identified application in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 26-42 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-25 and added new Claims 26-42. The claim amendments were made to more precisely define the invention in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 2. These amendments have not been necessitated by the need to distinguish the present invention from any prior art. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by these amendments, as support therefor is found throughout the specification and drawings.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-9, 11-17, 20, 21, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,561,905 to Ting. The Examiner's grounds for rejection are herewith traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Ting discloses a skin-irritating game machine. Ting does not disclose apparatus "adapted to compare reaction time of the players, reaction time being defined as the time elapsed between a start time at which a start signal is indicated to the players and the activation of the player input device on the handset of the player", as recited, *inter alia*, in new independent Claim 26. Consequently, Claim 26 and each of the claims

depending therefrom distinguish the subject invention from Ting and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 10, 18, 19, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over Ting. The Examiner's grounds for rejection are herewith traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

There is nothing in Ting that discloses or suggests, in whole or in part, the apparatus defined by Claim 26 of the subject application. In particular, there is nothing in Ting which discloses or suggests, an apparatus that includes, *inter alia*, comparing the reaction times of the players, determining the player with the slowest reaction time or administering an electric shock to the player with the slowest reaction time. Ting merely provides an electric shock to the player who loses the game. There is no means provided in the apparatus of Ting for measuring the relative reaction times of a plurality of players. Consequently, it would not have been obvious to a person skilled in the art to adapt the apparatus of Ting to include means for measuring the relative reaction times of the players. Therefore, Claim 26 and each of the claims depending therefrom are not rendered obvious by Ting, and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

New Claim 42 is a method claim version of Claim 26 and, thus, allowable for at least the same reasons noted above.

Any additional fees or overpayments due as a result of filing the present paper may be applied to Deposit Account No. 04-1105. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now remaining in this application, namely Claims 26-42 are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If after reviewing this amendment, the

Examiner believes that a telephone interview would facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number set forth herein below.

Respectfully submitted,

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